

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00795 171938Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0795

E. O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PINR, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S HEALTH: AUTHORITATIVE REPORT REGARDING
"ANGINA PECTORIS" CONDITION

REF: MOSCOW 794

1. DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT OF U.S.
ETHICALS, INC., DR. HOWARD H. BERGER, JANUARY 11,
DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER AND CARDIOLOGIST CHAZOV
INDICATED TO BERGER THAT BREZHNEV HAD BEEN TREATED FOR
ANGINA PECTORIS CONDITION.

2. CHAZOV MENTIONED BREZHNEV'S CONDITION DURING
DISCUSSION OF CARDIOVASCULAR DRUG "NITRONG", INTRODUCED
TO USSR BY DR. BERGER (FURTHER DETAILS REFTEL). CHAZOV
TOLD BERGER HE WAS BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL CARDIOLOGIST
AND HAD ADMINISTERED NITRONG TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
WITH SOME UNSTATED FREQUENCY, FOR LATTER'S ANGINA
PECTORIS CONDITION. BERGER COULD NOT, IN RESPONSE TO
EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS, BE MORE SPECIFIC REGARDING HOW
SERIOUS CHAZOV CONSIDERED BREZHNEV'S CONDITION TO BE,
REGARDING ACTUAL AMOUNTS OF NITRONG ADMINISTERED
TO BREZHNEV, OR REGARDING DATES OF TREATMENT.

3. COMMENT: CHAZOV IS OF COURSE WIDELY ASSUMED TO
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00795 171938Z

BE ONE OF BREZHNEV'S PRIVATE PHYSICIANS, AND WE SEE
NO REASON TO DOUBT THE CREDIBILITY OF DR. BERGER'S
ACCOUNT OF CHAZOV'S COMMENTS.
MATLOCK

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